

In the claims:

Please substitute the following full listing of claims for the claims as originally filed or most recently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coding image data into at least one block of data including a plurality of coefficient values, said method including the steps of

testing said coefficient values for coefficient values requiring more than eight bits to be uniquely coded, and

using a flag in said at least one block of data to indicate if all said coefficient values in said block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any coefficient value requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said coefficient values are DCT coefficients.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein said DCT coefficients are AC DCT coefficients.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said testing step is performed once per image.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said testing step is performed once per block.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 including the further step of using another flag in a block of data to indicate if any ZRLs are present.

7. (Previously Presented) A data format for a block of encoded data including

a first pair of bytes representing to a decoder a block number, a Klast value and at least one flag indicating if all said coefficient values in said block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded,

a second pair of bytes respectively representing to said decoder an R/S value and a coefficient value.

8. (Original) A data format as recited in claim 7, further including

at least one additional pair of bytes including a EOB byte and a padding byte.

9. (Original) A data format as recited in claim 7, wherein said first pair of bytes further includes another flag indicating if any runs of consecutive zero-valued coefficients greater than sixteen are present in said block.

10. (Previously Presented) A data format as recited in claim 7, wherein said Klast value provides an index of a last non-zero coefficient value in a block.